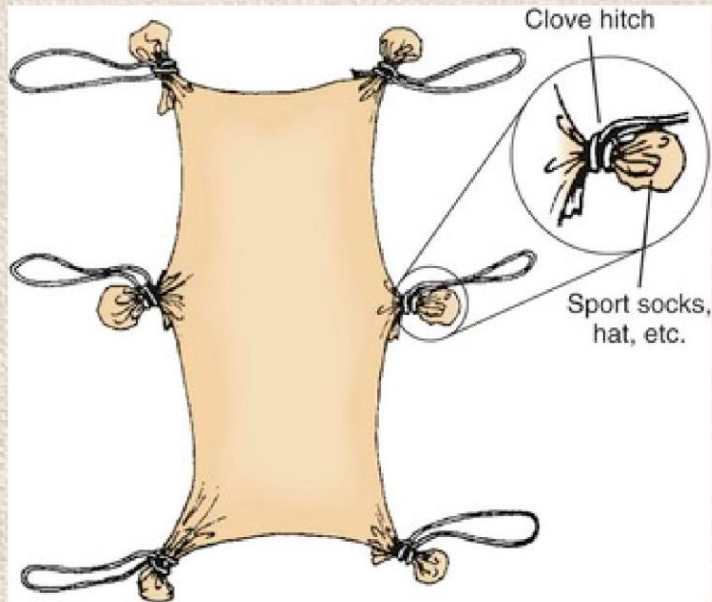




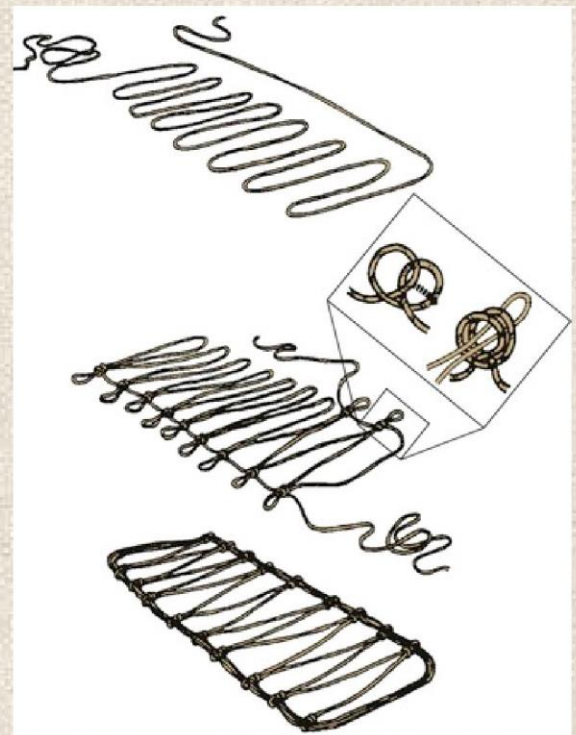
IMPROVISING STRETCHERS



The simplest improvised litter is made from a heavy plastic tarpaulin, tent material, or large polyethylene bag. By wrapping the material around a rock, wadded sock, or glove and securing it with rope or twine, the rescuer can fashion handles in the corners and sides to facilitate carrying.



A sturdy blanket or tarp can be used in combination with ski poles or stout tree branches. The blanket or tarp is stretched over the top of two poles, which are held about 1 m (3.3 feet) apart; tucked around the far pole; and folded back around the other pole. The remaining material lies over the first layer to complete the litter



A coil of rope can be fashioned into a litter, called a rope litter or clove hitch stretcher, but a 46 to 61-m climbing or rescue rope is required